UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,177	12/11/2001	Vij Rajarajan	MS167411.2/40062.147USU1	2710

			EXAMINER
27488	7590	03/29/2005	KOROBOV, VITALI A

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
C/O MERCHANT & GOULD, L.L.C.
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _11 December 2001_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-25_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-25_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _18_ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
        application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1- 25 are presented for examination.

Papers Submitted

2.   It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received

and placed of record in the file: Information Disclosure Statements as received on

multiple dates are considered.

Specification

3.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The

applications referred to on pages 1 and 2 of the specification must be accompanied by

the serial number and the title of each application for proper identification. The

relationship between these applications and the instant application must be clearly

stated.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Objections

Claim 18 objected to because of the following informalities: a period in the last

line appears to be a typographical error. The Examiner assumed this period meant to

be a word "to". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4.   Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because data structures are not a statutory patentable category. Claims 24-25 as recited are directed to data structure per se. Although the claims recite data structure comprising attribute information and task information, they lack limitations to indicate as to how the data structure's functionalities (i.e., functional interrelationship between the data structure and software that permits the data structure's functionality to be realized) are realized. See MPEP 2106.IV.B.1.(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5.   Claims 1- 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6857013 B2 by Ramberg et al. (hereinafter Ramberg).

With respect to claim 1, Ramberg teaches a system for managing a plurality of resources comprising: a management module in communication with the plurality of resources (Col. 4, lines 35 – 38); the management module capable of receiving a request to access information related to one or more of the plurality of resources (Col. 4, lines 29 – 33 for the platform and col. 4, lines 41 – 45 for a particular element of the platform); and in response to the receipt of a request to access information, the management module accesses information from more than one resource (Col. 4, lines 29 – 33, where the platform consist of plurality of elements).

With respect to claim 2, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 1 wherein the management module comprises a configuration manager for receiving information from a plurality of resources and a configuration store for storing predetermined information for the plurality of resources (Col. 6, lines 51 – 54).

With respect to claim 3, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 2 wherein the configuration manager installs resources such that the management module can modify configuration information for the plurality of resources (Col. 6, lines 32 – 35).

With respect to claim 4, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 3 wherein each of the plurality of resources provides information to the configuration manager in XML format (Col. 9, lines 51 – 54).

With respect to claim 5, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of resources manages one or more objects, each object comprising: one or more attributes, each attribute having a data field and a value (Col.

6, lines 51 – 54); one or more associated tasks that may be performed on the object; and wherein the management module accesses attribute and task information from the associated resources in response to a request to access information (Col. 4, lines 18 – 22).

With respect to claim 6, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 5 wherein the attribute information for an object is provided by more than one resource (Col. 4, lines 29 – 33; ADC device platform can comprise many individual ADC devices).

With respect to claim 7, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 6 wherein each object is defined by a property sheet and the attribute information is a property page in the property sheet (Fig. 9, diagnostic and repair sheet 901, incorporating property page for a particular unit 902).

With respect to claim 8, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 6 wherein the task information for an object is provided by more than one resource (Col. 4, lines 29 – 33, i.e information in response to a status check (task) is provided by the ADC platform, comprising a plurality of units (resources)).

With respect to claim 9, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 6 wherein each object is defined by a property sheet and the task information is in a property page associated with the property sheet (Fig. 8A, 8B and 9 – configurable message with pre-defined fields ("property sheet", as per pages 30, 31 of instant application) has tasks associated with it ("Help", "Next", "Send", etc.) and a property page pointer 902 associated with a particular unit).

With respect to claim 10, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 6 further

comprising: a configuration manager for receiving and storing information from a

plurality of resources relating to managed objects (Col. 7, lines 63 – 65, "Get" operation

– receiving, MIB - storage); and a property sheet manager for receiving and storing

property sheet information related to managed objects (Col. 6, lines 51 – 64, MIB and

GUI).

With respect to claim 12, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 1

wherein the management layer further comprises: a configuration manager for receiving

information from a plurality of resources (Col 7, lines 63 – 64, "Get" operation), each

resource having associated objects (Col. 4, lines 13 – 16); a configuration store for

storing predetermined information for the plurality of resources (Col. 6, line 46 - 54; and

a task manager, wherein the task manager receives task information from the

configuration manager related to tasks that may be completed in managing the plurality

of resources (Col. 7, lines 63 – 65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6.   This application currently names joint inventors. In considering

patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the

subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions

covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised

of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of

each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in

order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35

U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7.   Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Ramberg et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6573907 B1 by Madrane (hereinafter Madrane).

With respect to claim 11, Ramberg teaches a system as defined in claim 1 further

comprising: a configuration manager for receiving information from a plurality of

resources (Col. 4, lines 10 – 13), each resource having associated objects (Col. 4, lines

10 – 13); a configuration store for storing predetermined information for the plurality of

resources (Col. 6, lines 51 – 54); and a search manager adapted to receive

predetermined search information from a plurality of resources (Col. 14, lines 42 – 49),

but fails to explicitly teach further limitations of claim 11. Madrane teaches these further

limitations of claim 11, namely a search data store adapted to store predetermined

search information for the various resources (Col. 74, line 15); and wherein the search

manager searches the plurality of resources in response to a single search request

(Col. 40, lines 33 – 39, Fig. 49). Ramberg and Madrane are analogous art because

they are both related to management of network resources. Therefore, it would have

been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made

to combine the configuration and query capabilities of Ramberg with search results

storage taught by Madrane. One having ordinary skills in the art would be motivated to

combine the teaching of Ramberg and Madrane in order to better facilitate anomaly

diagnosis (Ramberg, col. 14, lines 46 – 49).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by
another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent
granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2)
of such treaty in the English language.

8.   Claims 13 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated

by U. S. Patent No. 6754885 B1 by Dardinski et al. (hereinafter Dardinski).

With respect to claim 13, Dardinski teaches a method of managing a plurality of

resources, each resource having managed objects, wherein each of the objects has

associated attribute and task information (Fig. 63, Group and User attributes, and

Permissions to perform certain tasks), the method comprising: receiving information

from a first resource related to attribute information for a first managed object (Col. 68,

lines 55 – 58, first managed object – User; lines 59 – 61 – attributes); receiving

information from a second resource related to attribute information for the first managed

object (Col. 68, lines 41 - 42, second managed object – Group) , storing the information

received from the second resource with the information received from the first resource

in association with the first managed object (Col. 68, lines 61 – 67 – storing user in a

group; col. 3, lines 49 – 55 – User inherits parameters from Group); receiving a request

to access information related to the first managed object; and accessing stored

information from the first and second resources to access information related to the first

managed object (Col. 69, lines 3 – 6, see also Fig. 62).

With respect to claim 14, Dardinski teaches a method as defined in claim 13

wherein the information received from the first resource comprises a first property page

(Fig. 63 – 64 – User tab) and wherein the information received from the second

resource comprises a second property page (Fig. 63 – 64 – Group tab) and wherein the

method further comprises: creating a property sheet for the first managed object Col.

68, lines 55 – 58); associating the first property page with the property sheet (Fig. 63,

Users property page); and associating the second property page with the property sheet

(Fig. 63 – 64 – Group property sheet; col. 68, lines 64 – 67 associating first property

page with second property page).

With respect to claim 15, Dardinski teaches a method as defined in claim 14

further comprising: receiving a search request from a client computer system; and

searching a plurality of resources in response to the single search request using

information associated with the property sheet (Col. 45, lines 63 – 65).

With respect to claim 16, Dardinski teaches a method as defined in claim 15

further comprising the act of sharing search information between resources (Col. 46,

lines 22 – 24).

With respect to claim 17, Dardinski teaches a method as defined in claim 14 further comprising: receiving a task request from a client computer system Fig. 1, workstation 11); and in response to the task request, requesting task completion from a plurality of resources (Fig. 1, plurality of resources 10A, 10B, 12, 14, 16).

With respect to claim 18, Dardinski teaches a method as defined in claim 17 wherein the act of requesting task completion from a plurality of resources comprises: identifying two or more resources to configure in response to the task request (Col. 8, lines 35 – 38); and performing the task by accessing the two or more resources identified to perform a task from a client's computer system (Col. 8, lines 50 – 59).

With respect to claim 19, Dardinski teaches a method as defined in claim 13 wherein the act of receiving information from the first and second resources is performed by a configuration manager and wherein the method further comprises: notifying a search manager that search information has been received (Col. 45, lines 65 – 67).

With respect to claim 20, Dardinski teaches a method as defined in claim 13 wherein the act of receiving information from the first and second resources is performed by a configuration manager and wherein the method further comprises: notifying a task manager that search information has been received (Col. 46, lines 3 – 5).

Claim 21 is rejected in view of the above rejection of claim 13. Claim 21 is essentially the same as claim 13, except that it sets forth the invention as a computer program product rather than a method, as does claim 13.

Claim 22 is rejected in view of the above rejection of claim 17. Claim 22 is essentially the same as claim 17, except that it sets forth the invention as a computer program product rather than a method, as does claim 17.

Claim 23 is rejected in view of the above rejection of claim 18. Claim 23 is essentially the same as claim 18, except that it sets forth the invention as a computer program product rather than a method, as does claim 18.

With respect to claim 24, Dardinski teaches a computer program product readable by a computer and having stored thereon a data structure comprising information provided by a first resource relating to attribute information for a first managed object and information provided by a second resource relating to attribute information for the first managed object (Fig. 63, hierarchical data structure for Groups and Users).

With respect to claim 25, Dardinski teaches a computer program product as defined in claim 24 wherein the data structure further comprises task information provided by the first and second resources (Fig. 63, Permissions property page for Groups and Users).

Conclusion

9.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims, the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art

disclosed by the references cited and the objection made. Applicant must show how

the amendments avoid such references and objections. See 37 CFR § 1.111(c).

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030033402 A1 by Battat, Reuven et al.

This patent publication is considered pertinent to the applicant disclosure because it

teaches a method and apparatus intuitively to administer all components of a networked

computer system by use of real multi-dimensional views of any component or any set of

components, including components related to a specific business interest, and with

customizable and fully extensible functionality, across heterogenous platforms and

applications.

U.S. Patent No. US 6233726 B1 by Bowman; Ivan Thomas et al. The patent is

considered pertinent to the applicant disclosure because it teaches a development

system with reference card and parameter wizard methodologies for facilitating creation

of object-based software programs using XML format.

U.S. Patent No. US US 6014138 A by Cain; Ronald Allen et al. The patent is

considered pertinent to the applicant disclosure because it teaches a development

system with methods for improved visual programming with hierarchical object explorer,

incorporating property sheets, property pages with associated tasks.

U.S. Patent No. US 5949417 A by Calder; Dale E. The patent is considered

pertinent to the applicant disclosure because it teaches a dynamic property sheet

system, incorporating methods and apparatus for the concurrent display of two or more

property pages of a Graphical User Interface (GUI). A user can select a property page

displayed by a first property sheet system and create a second property sheet system

that displays the selected property page at second, user selected display position.

U.S. Patent No. US 5491796 A by Wanderer; James et al. The patent is considered pertinent to the applicant disclosure because it teaches an apparatus for remotely managing diverse information network resources.

U.S. Patent No. US 6002398 A by Wilson; Daniel B. The patent is considered pertinent to the applicant disclosure because it teaches an apparatus for remotely managing diverse information network resources and a method of navigation between property pages with tabs and menus. It also teaches a method for displaying a tabbed dialog box, a property sheet, which can be either modal or modeless.

U.S. Patent No. US 6317142 B1 by Decoste; Marc-Andre et al. The patent is considered pertinent to the applicant disclosure because it teaches a system of objects and a system of non-modal property inspectors, incorporating the teachings of property pages, property sheets and associated tasks. A system also has a hierarchical organization for modifying and applying tools for manipulating data types.

10.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vitali Korobov whose telephone number is 571-272-7506. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday 8a.m. - 4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Vitali Korobov
Examiner
Art Unit 2155

03/16/2005

HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER